

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01374 061708 Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061608 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6512

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1374

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XA OAU PO

SUBJ: TALKS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AFRICANS

REF: STATE 60046

1. SAHNOUN ARRIVED IN OSLO FROM LONDON MIDDAY ON APRIL 5 TO PLUNGE DIRECTLY INTO MEETINGS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE OSLO CONFERENCE. AN EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH HIM THIS AFTERNOON AT THE GRAND HOTEL AFTER ANOTHER MEETING OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 THROUGH 3 OF REFTEL.

2. SAHNOUN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN REPLY:

(A) HE IS " INCLINED TO AGREE" WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM' S THOUGHTS ON THE QUESTION OF INFORMING THE UNSYG; THEY MATCH HIS OWN, AND HE THINKS HE WILL SO RECOMMEND TO THE OAU CHIEFS OF STATE, WHOSE AUTHORIZATION WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE ANYTHING FURTHER MAY BE DONE.

(B) HE UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LORD HOME' S " SIGNAL FROM THE PORTUGUESE" AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM' S " IMPRESSIONS", BUT HE REAFFIRMED THAT IT WAS INDEED A " SIGNAL" CONVEYED BY LORD HOME AND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM' S " IMPRESSIONS" SERVE IN HIS MIND TO CONFIRM THE " SIGNAL".

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(C) SAHNOUN ALSO UNDERSTANDS FULLY THE US DESIRE NOT TO ACT AS A MIDDLEMAN; HE SAYS HE HAS NOT THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ANY NEED FOR A MIDDLEMAN ONCE TALKS ARE BEGUN. HE HOPES HOWEVER, THAT " THIS CHANNEL" COULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH" TIMING AND VENUE" ONCE THE OAU HEADS OF STATE APPROVE THIS INITIATIVE. HE PERSONALLY THINKS THE TALKS COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY AND DISCREETLY BEGIN THIS FALL IN NEW YORK BURIED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND NOISES OF THE UNGA.

3. SAHNOUN ASKED THAT WE CONVEY HIS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND ESPECIALLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, FOR THE US ROLE IN THIS MATTER AND FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM'S PROMPT RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTIONS.

CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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